



The Power of Baptism by Rev. Sapada Thomas



In March 2020, Jamiah Speaks gave her life to Christ and came to the church as a candidate for baptism. In conversing with her after she gave her life to Christ, I informed her that we baptize in 3 ways: sprinkling, pouring, and submergence. She requested to be submerged into the waters for baptism. Since our church does not have a baptism pool, I contacted one of the pastors of a local church to request to use their baptism pool.

Everything was set. However, unexpectedly Covid-19 struck our society, causing our nation to be shut down, including our churches.

After many months of waiting, I contacted the church again to reschedule the baptism, but they would not allow us to come in. Therefore, I had a conversation with James Milliner, a member of our congregation, and we worked together to purchase a pool,

feeding trough, container (however you want to describe it), to have the baptism at our church. God spoke to me and said, "You only need water, witnesses, and the Power of the Holy Spirit to have a baptism.

It was then that God led me to have the baptism at the church, in a feeding trough, on the back of a trailer. In some ways, this was a humble manner just as Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem. On May 16, 2021, **Jamiah Speaks, Makenzie Dukes, and Makhia Wilson** (pictured on page one) were baptized in the Power of the Holy

Spirit, with witnesses and water. Thanks be to God for the Power of Baptism on the lives of these three young ladies.

This, however, was not the only baptism performed at the church in the month of May. On the 9th Little Miss **Asa Grace Mister Johnson** (pictured below) was baptized on Mother's Day. Just 9 months old, Asa Grace is the daughter of Thomas Christopher Johnson and Amber Monesha Mister, who is the daughter of Trudie Perry Mister, and the niece of Niler P. Franklin.



Oxford First Graduates Recognized

Oxford First recognized their 2021 graduates on May 23rd. Barbara Wortham presented certificates and gifts to the following students: Ty Milliner, Nevin Mitchell, and Dkhylen Mosley from Lafayette High

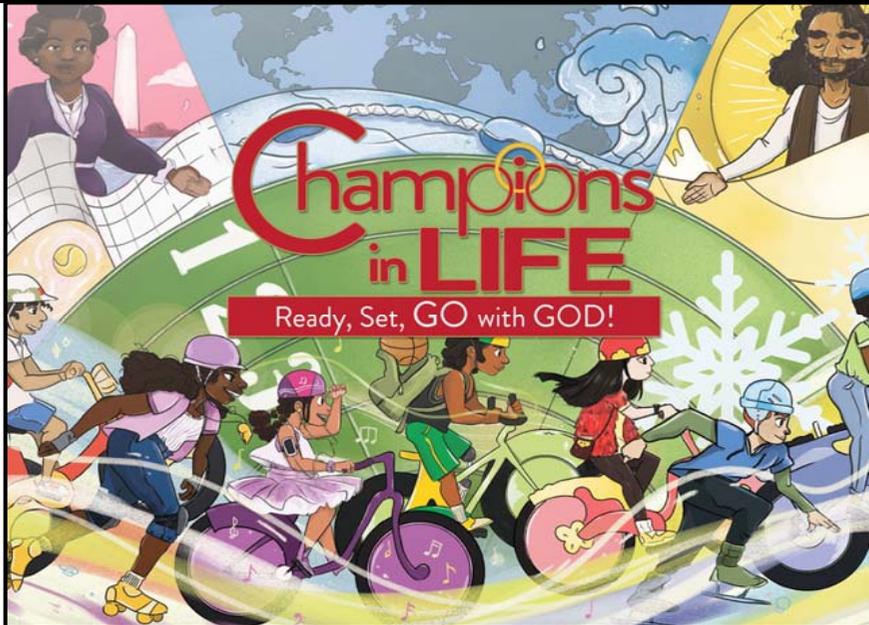
School; D’Nijal J. Gipson (DJ), Kennedy Milliner, Khasanti Hervey, Kendranna Barr, and Quad Henry from Oxford High School; and Chris Spearman from Northwest Mississippi Community College.

Mothers Recognized on Mother's Day



Vacation Bible School (June 14-16)

by Rev. Sapada Thomas



We are excited to announce that this year's Vacation Bible School will be held on June

14, 15, and 16, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM each night. This year's theme for VBS is

“Champions in Life: Ready, Set Go with God!” Our children, youth, and adults will find joy in knowing that Jesus makes each one a winner and that we are competing in life to reach the goal of the high calling of Jesus Christ.

With the “Champions of Life” VBS, participants will:

- Activate and exercise faith and fun!
- Be encouraged to set godly goals!
- Be inspired to reach for the prize!
- Believe that Jesus makes them champions!

Jacob's Ladder is a monthly publication of Oxford First United Methodist Church. EDITOR/PUBLISHER: Clarence H. Franklin. ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Niler P. Franklin. All rights reserved. Announcements or articles should be submitted to Rev. Sapada Thomas or submitted by e-mail directly to Franklin at chfrank@panola.com. Visit our website at www.OxfordFirst.org and click on the *Jacob's Ladder* link to view previous month's issues.

Minister Tressie Johnson is our VBS coordinator. She is working very diligently to get things together. We are expecting the following classes: ages 3-5, grades 1-4, grades 5-8, grades 9-12, and an adult class. We will also have Arts and Crafts, along with outside fun and games.

Lastly, but definitely not least, we will have food each night. We want to invite the whole community to be part of our 2021 VBS. We invite you to share this event with everyone you know, as well as show up each night even if you have not been asked to do anything specifically. We will need everyone's help, to fill in the gaps that may be needed.

Come and see the CHAMPION in you!!!!